

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS FOR
OBTAINING THE RANK OF EAGLE
SCOUT**HON. SANDY ADAMS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 13, 2011

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Adam John Avellan for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Throughout the history of the Boy Scouts of America, the rank of Eagle Scout has only been attained through dedication to concepts such as honor, duty, country and charity. By applying these concepts to daily life, Adam has proven his true and complete understanding of their meanings, and thereby deserves this honor.

I offer my congratulations on a job well done and best wishes for the future.

CATHERINE FOX TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 13, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Catherine Fox, a science teacher at Mancos High School in Mancos, Colorado. Ms. Fox was chosen to participate in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Teachers at Sea Program for 2011.

Ms. Fox was accepted into the program along with 32 other teachers out of a pool of over 250 applicants. The Teachers At Sea Program was established in 1990 and since then has given over 500 teachers from across the country the opportunity to gain hands-on experience with science at sea. Ms. Fox spent 18 days at sea aboard the NOAA Ship *Oscar Dyson* in the Gulf of Alaska where she aided scientists in the conducting of walleye pollock surveys.

Through this program, Ms. Fox was able to bring home experience and knowledge that she could pass along to her science students. Ms. Fox was quoted in an associated press release saying, "Students in Mancos are far from the ocean, but this experience has allowed me to bring the ocean to them."

The Teachers at Sea Program has allowed educators like Ms. Catherine Fox to grow their curricula and provide more hands-on knowledge for their students.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincerest pleasure to recognize Ms. Catherine Fox. Her dedication to her profession has helped improve our educational system and ensure that our students are receiving the best education available to them. I rise today to thank Ms. Fox for her commitment to learning and congratulate her on her acceptance into the 2011 Teachers at Sea Program.

VETERANS' BENEFITS TRAINING
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the passage of H.R. 2349, the Veterans' Benefits Training Improvement Act of 2011. This important legislation makes much-needed improvements to benefits and services for our nation's veterans. It improves the claim-processing system by establishing a pilot program to assess the skills of employees responsible for processing veterans' claims, authorizing the use of electronic communication to contact claimants regarding their benefits, and assisting veterans in obtaining private records, among others.

Included in this legislation is a bill that I sponsored entitled, the Veterans Pensions Protection Act of 2011 (H.R. 923). My bill protects veterans' pensions by exempting the reimbursement of expenses related to accidents, theft, loss or casualty loss from being included into the determination of a veteran's income. Under current law, if a veteran is seriously injured in an accident or is the victim of a theft and receives insurance compensation, he or she may lose their pension if the payment exceeds the income limit set by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This means that the law effectively punishes veterans when they suffer from an accident or theft.

Such a tragedy happened to one of my constituents, a Navy veteran with muscular dystrophy who was hit by a truck when crossing the street in his wheelchair. His pension was abruptly cut off after he received an insurance settlement payment to cover medical expenses for himself and his service dog, and material expenses to replace his wheelchair. As a result, he could not cover his daily expenses and mortgage payments and almost lost his home. To me this is unacceptable.

I am extremely pleased that H.R. 923 was incorporated into H.R. 2349 and I want to thank my Florida colleague, Chairman JEFF MILLER, as well as Subcommittee Chairman JON RUNYAN and Ranking Member JERRY MCNERNEY for their continued support on this important issue.

At a time of economic hardship, it is essential to guarantee the continuity of our veterans' pensions and ensure that no veteran will have their benefits unfairly and abruptly depreciated or cancelled.

Mr. Speaker, our nation's servicemen and women are currently fighting two wars abroad and engaged in action in other parts of the world. As they return home, many bear the mental and physical wounds incurred in the defense of our nation and deserve the highest quality care and services that we can provide them. Therefore, I thank my colleagues for supporting this much-needed legislation.

ENCOURAGING OBSERVANCE OF
NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION
AWARENESS WEEK**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 13, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, during National Fire Prevention Awareness week, I would like to encourage that we as a community make preparations to protect our families and neighbors from the tragedy and destruction caused by fires. This is a great opportunity to thank our community's fire fighters who are the first to respond and put themselves at risk for our safety.

Our Manhattan Congressional District is fortunate to have many brave first responders, including those from the Uniformed Fire Association of Greater New York, FDNY Engine 69, Ladder 28, Battalion 16 'Harlem Hilton,' FDNY Engine 53, Ladder 43 'El Barrio's Bravest' and FDNY Rescue 3 'Big Blue,' and the Vulcan Society, Inc. We must continue to show our cooperation and appreciation towards our fire-fighters, first responders and those who continuously ensure our neighborhoods are safe.

Simple precautions such as installing and maintaining smoke detectors in every apartment unit and on every floor of our homes and buildings, having an escape plan, and following fire codes can save countless lives. I would hope that people in my District and all across our great nation would take proper measures to prevent fires and potential harm in our communities."

LEROUX RANCH TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 13, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Leroux Ranch of Radium, Colorado. Leroux Ranch was settled in 1905 by cowboy and miner Owen F. Leroux at the suggestion of John Winslow, Owen's future father-in-law.

Owen married Ida Winslow, settled down, and started a family. The Leroux estate thrived for many years and after Owen's death, his family began purchasing land from homesteaders and the farm operated as Leroux Cattle Company. In 1973, part of the farm was sold off, but the original homestead remained.

In 2008, the final interest in the farm was purchased by descendants of Owen and Ida Leroux and today raises Angus and Hereford cattle. The Division of Wildlife has placed a conservation easement on the property in an attempt to establish a habitat for big game.

The Leroux Farm is another fine example of the rich agricultural heritage of the State of Colorado. The Centennial Farms Program is honoring the Leroux Farm for its longevity and long-time cultural value. It is truly a pleasure to represent a district of a state with such a fantastic display of entrepreneurial spirit.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Leroux Farm today on the floor of the House. The farm is truly a valuable historic and cultural asset of the State of Colorado.